

# Radiate His Light NEWS



*Dear Friends of the Maronite Servants,*

*Glorious Nativity! Milaad Majeed!  
Joyeux Noel! Merry Christmas!*

You are remembered and especially thought of during this Christmas Novena in preparation for the season of the Glorious Birth of the Lord.

*"Today the Lord Jesus is born of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
and he has freed all people from their captors.  
Let us raise a hymn of glory."  
(Christmas Divine Liturgy, Proemion)*

There is much news to share with you in this issue. I am happy to announce the reception of our first novice on November 21<sup>st</sup> at the Cathedral in Brooklyn. Congratulations Sister Therese Maria Touma! You can read about this on page 2 and view more photos on our blog. The Maronite Servants are growing and more vocations are needed. Please help spread the word to the young women in your parish and pray for holy vocations.

On the following pages you can read about some of our apostolic efforts including our catechesis on Saint Maron which has been requested by our parishes in New Bedford, Westchester. If your parish is interested, give us a call.

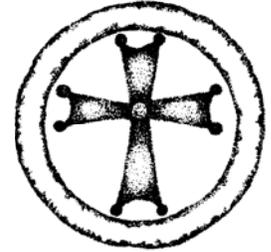
Many have asked about our new home in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. We are not yet able to move in, but the renovations are underway. I have to mention a big thank you to Father Jack Morrison, pastor of our New Bedford parish, for spearheading the renovations. He is a good Father, friend and wise in business—and we couldn't do it without his help.

We also cannot do all this needed work without your help, support and encouragement. Thank you to all our friends who have donated to the renovation fund (as detailed in the Fall issue). And an advance "thank you" to those who are planning to contribute. Perhaps you can include us in your Christmas giving. We are in great need and would be most grateful.

We are blessed to have you as a part of our *Maronite Servants* circle of family and friends. May His radiant light illumine your heart.

With our prayers in Mary, Mother of the Light,

*Sister Marla Marie*



*The Maronite Cross of Rabula*

## Illumine Your Soul

*Year of Saint Maron*

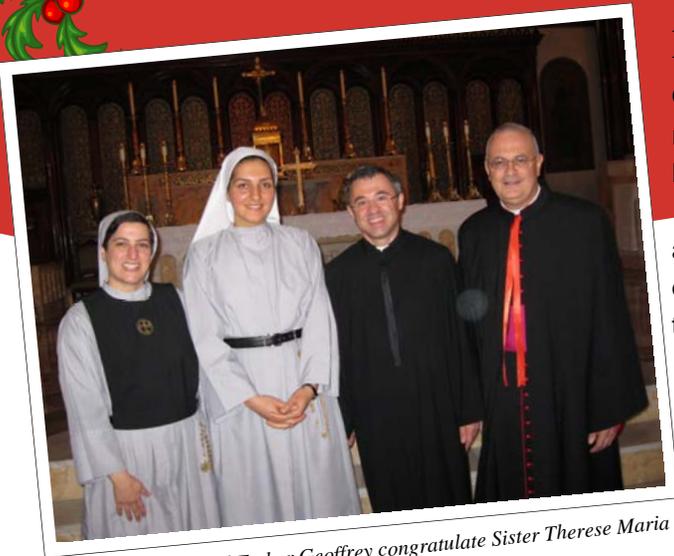
PRAYER

*Lord God,  
you called your chosen one, Saint Maron,  
to the monastic life,  
perfected him in divine virtues,  
and guided him along the difficult road  
to the heavenly kingdom.*

*During this jubilee year,  
commemorating 1600 years since the death of  
your chosen one, Saint Maron,  
when he was called to the house  
of your heavenly Father; we ask you,  
through his intercession, to immerse us in your  
love that we may walk in your path, heed your  
commandments, and follow in his footsteps.*

*May his holy example resonate  
throughout our lives.  
With your love, may we achieve that final  
destination reached by our father,  
Saint Maron, and carry your  
Gospel throughout the world.*

*Through his intercession, may we attain the  
glory of the resurrection and  
everlasting life in you.  
Glory and thanks are due to you,  
to your blessed Father,  
and to your living Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.*



Bishop Gregory and Father Geoffrey congratulate Sister Therese Maria

## Received into the Novitiate

Our postulant, Therese Touma took the next step in the formation of religious life by entering the novitiate in a ceremony at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral in Brooklyn on November 21st, 2010 during the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy with Bishop Gregory J. Mansour presiding, and concelebrating, Father James Root, rector. It was the Sunday of the Annunciation to Mary and the feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary, both fitting themes for the sacrifice and dedication of religious life.

After the homily, Bishop Gregory blessed Therese as she was led to the sanctuary by Mother Marla Marie, who then presented Therese saying, "She has completed a period of postulancy, and has asked to be received into the Novitiate of the Congregation of the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light, in the Eparchy of Saint Maron

of Brooklyn. As her Superior, I have granted her request and welcome her as a Novice with the Religious name of Sister Therese Maria. We ask your blessing upon her habit and rosary, the rich symbols of Religious life, and also upon the Typicon of the Congregation, which Sister Therese Maria will study in preparation to embrace the evangelical counsels of our Congregation."

Reflecting on the ceremony, Sister Therese Maria said, "One of the highlights was when Mother Marla Marie handed me the white veil which I then kissed, symbolizing the vow of chastity." She also added, "I see the Novitiate, as a precious time of deepening my love and commitment to Jesus. These two years of formation will be a beautiful opportunity to humbly grow in my understanding of what it means to be a Maronite Servant of Christ the Light."

For more details and photos, check our blog.

## 40 Days for Life—Massachusetts

Wednesday October 6th, the Maronite Servants along with Fr. Anthony Salim, pastor of St. Theresa's Maronite Church, Brockton participated in the *40 Days for Life* prayer vigil in Attleboro, M.A. In the wind and rain, holding our umbrellas and rosaries, we offered up an hour of prayer outside a local abortion facility in witness to the sanctity of life. With October being the month of the Holy Rosary and Respect Life, we prayed the four mysteries and asked our Blessed Mother to pray with us for the intentions of all the unborn children, for the conversion of those who work at the abortion centers and for the closure of all these facilities.



## MYO Retreat—Connecticut

The Maronite Servants were able to participate in the MYO regional retreat for New England held on October 22-24 at the Wisdom Retreat House in Litchfield, Connecticut. Fr. Jean Younes (Danbury) and Fr. Jack Morrison (New Bedford) directed a dynamic group of 50 teens from several parishes, and were assisted by a great crew of adult advisors.

Speaking on the theme of the Theology of the Body, Dr. Allan Ramey, a Maronite, was the main presenter.

## Catechesis on Saint Maron

In response to the 1600th anniversary commemorating the death of Saint Maron, the Maronite Servants of Christ the Light have creatively developed a curriculum on Saint Maron for religious formation to present to grades K-6, and the teens in MYO. In presenting these interactive lessons, the Sisters use various props, Scripture, visual technologies and activities, to help the youth to deepen their knowledge and understanding of Maronite spirituality, traditions, and way of prayer. Also, the Maronite Servants have a presentation prepared for the MYA.

St. Theresa's Maronite Church in Brockton has already requested the Maronite Servants to offer this program as part of their Heritage Day catechesis. The presentations on St. Maron will teach on his history, his importance in the founding of our Maronite Church, and his current influence on Maronite spirituality, and way of worship. In the teen presentation, the Sisters discuss growing in virtue and weeding out vice in our lives. St. Maron compared this to the analogy of cultivating the garden of our hearts, to make them fertile in receiving and living God's Word.

Overall, this curriculum will provide children with inspiring information about St. Maron and engaging activities to reinforce the lesson. If your parish is interested in these presentations, contact Sister Marla Marie.



## MYA Conference—Florida

On the weekend of October 29th—31st, the Maronite Servants took part in the Maronite Young Adult (MYA) Leadership workshop in Miami, Florida. Fr. Elie Mikhael pastor of Our Lady of Lebanon, Miami hosted the event along with the help of Fr. Elias Sleiman (Los Angeles), Fr. Jean Younes (Danbury/Westchester), and the MYA Board. Over 100 Maronite young adults were present, traveling from across the U.S. to learn more about leadership and growing the MYA.





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Eparchy of St. Maron  
109 Remsen Street  
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### Thanksgiving Dinner with Friends

We had the blessing to visit on Thanksgiving with some of the residents of Cedars Assisted Living facility in Dartmouth, MA. This facility is part of our Eparchy and is serviced by Father Jack Morrison as chaplain. We hope to make regular visits to the residents once we transition into the area.



### 50 & Fabulous!

It is a great gift to be able to celebrate 50 years of life on November 23rd. I am not one to hide my age but I do feel a pinch when folks comment: “half a century” or “your life is half over” or “over the hill”. However, in reality I was born in the last century, and even better—the last millennium. These facts I consider a boast and a blessing.



### On the Web

Check our blog up-dated every Friday. Visit our website for a copy of this newsletter. Also, friend Sr. Marla Marie Lucas on FACEBOOK and LINKEDIN.

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